

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-486-2666
www.chabadshul.org



January 23, 2016

Beshalach

13 Shevat, 5776

Produce Potential

The Torah teaches, "A person ("adam") is like a tree of the field." The use of the Hebrew word "adam" implies that the reference is to the Jewish people. Adam is related to the word "adameh" (I resemble), as in the phrase, "Adameh L'Elyon - I resemble the One Above."

The Torah describes the Land of Israel as "a land of wheat, barley, vines, figs and pomegranates, a land of olives that produce oil and honey (dates)." (Deut. 8:8) Every Jew has seven spiritual potentials that parallel these seven species of produce. On Tu BeShevat, the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat (this year Monday, January 25) these seven potentials are brought to the forefront. Let's take a few moments to briefly discuss these seven types of produce and how they connect with our lives as Jews:

Wheat: Our Sages described wheat as "food for humans," an allusion to that aspect of our existence that makes us human - the G-dly soul. Like actual food, our G-dly soul's mission must be assimilated into the totality of our being.

Barley: Barley is described as "food for animals." It refers to the elevation of the animal soul.

Grapes: Grapes are used to produce wine, which "gladdens G-d and people."

Figs: The Torah relates that figs were used to make the first garments worn by Adam and Eve. Later, G-d gave man "garments of leather" ("ohr" spelled with the letter "ayin"), which Rabbi Meir in the Talmud refers to as "garments of light" (spelled with an "alef"). From this we learn that a Jew's service must involve spreading G-dly light.

Pomegranates: We must always remember that every Jew is "as filled with mitzvot (commandments and good deeds) as a pomegranate is filled with seeds."

Olives: Olives are bitter. A Jew's life should be characterized by sweetness, but in times of introspection he must come to a state of bitterness when evaluating his spiritual achievements. This should be bitterness that leads to action, not sadness that leads to despondency and inactivity.

Dates: Dates refer to the Torah's mystical dimensions, the study of which strengthens the inner dimensions of the Jewish soul.

Through developing our spiritual potential that relates to all these qualities, and spreading these concepts to others, we will merit to proceed to the Land of Israel with Moshiach, where we will "partake of its produce and be sated with its goodness."

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Glorified Money

"I am always so impressed how nicely you do mitzvos. Your Bar Mitzva was just right, and your weddings were perfect. When that Rosh Yeshiva came from Israel you really made him feel at home. But I never understood why when it came to paying your children's tuition, you always try your best to avoid it!!"

When the Torah says "This is my G-d, and I will glorify Him" (Shemos 15:2). The Gomorrah (Shabbos 133b) says it refers to glorifying mitzvos as we do them, since this glorifies G-d. People have special cups for ritually washing their hands, beautiful Esrog boxes, Kiddush cups etc. Sometimes we forget that paying tuition, giving charity, or paying any money that we owe is a mitzva. When we have an opportunity to do a mitzva, make sure we glorify G-d.

There is a silversmith in Yerushalayim who makes everyone who pays him for his work, say "I am hereby fulfilling the mitzva of paying for work done for me."

(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

"The Rav's Friday Night Hashkafa Q&A Shiur for Men"

will take place **next** Friday night (parshat Yitro), January 29th at 8:15 p.m. and will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Kahn, 2325 Blackberry (in Beazer NORTH; Pebble Brooke to left on Sweet Meadow to right on Blackberry).

Questions can be submitted in advance to rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com or anonymously in the shul mailbox.

Community Information of Interest

January 23: The Last Years of the Old Order: Israel and the Jews 1962-1966. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz. Exodus, Goodbye Columbus, and Fiddler on the Roof: Secular Jewish Culture in the Sixties in all its Judaic Illiteracy. This lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

We happily wish Mazel Tov to Mr. Eliyahu and Mrs. Leana Schwartz on the Birth of a Son two weeks ago.

Also a Mazel Tov to the brothers and sisters and entire family.



We happily wish Mazel Tov to Dr. Max and Mrs. Brenda Lapkovsky on the Birth of a Daughter.

The Lapkovsky Family sponsored Kiddush last Shabbat in honor of their Simcha.



We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Mr. Harry Rashbaum on the loss of his sister, Mrs. Pearl Lebson.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Yahrzeits This Week:

David Feierstein 17 Shevat - Tuesday night/Wednesday for father Chaim Mordechai ben Rav Naftoli Hertzel

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com
Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com
Membership: Jay Bernstein . . . bernstein1@msn.com
Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com
Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplon@towson.edu
Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com

Gabbaim:
Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net
Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com
Ephraim Siff
Arnie Gittleson arnoldgittleson@yahoo.com

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 1/22 — 12 Shevat
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Candles — 4:57 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:00 p.m.
Shabbat, 1/23 — 13 Shevat
Shacharit — 8:40 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:49 a.m.
Berachot Gemara Shiur — 4:15 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 4:45 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 5:59 p.m.
Sunday, 1/24 — 14 Shevat
Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:00 p.m.
Monday — Tu B'Shevat, 1/25 — 15 Shevat
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/26 — 16 Shevat
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.
Wednesday, 1/27 — 17 Shevat
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.
Thursday, 1/28 — 18 Shevat
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.
Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.
Friday, 1/29 — 19 Shevat
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Candles — 5:05 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:05 p.m.